

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12

ACDA-19 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /157 W

----- 129319

O R 061157 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3475

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

USDAO SAIGON

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DOS SPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS

ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2691

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI;
MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT APRIL 6
REF: VIENTIANE 2551

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY- COMBAT ACTION INCREASED
SOMEWHAT DURING PERIOD 4-5 APRIL, WITH TWO MAJOR AND
EIGHT MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. LAST FRIENDLY MILITARY
PRESENCE IN AREA NORTH NORTHWEST OF BAN HOU EI SAI, IN
FAR NORTHWEST, WAS APPARENTLY DRIVEN INTO BURMA BY
REPEATED SMALL ENEMY ATTACKS. FRIENDS LOST AN OUTPOST
POSITION NORTH OF THA VIANG, SOUTHEAST OF PDJ. RLAF FLEW
13 T-28 SORTIES, MAINLY IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT.
LAO FAC NOTED SIGNS OF ENEMY BUILDUP EAST OF SALA PHOU
KHOUN JUNCTION ASTRIDE ROUTE 13 CONNECTING VIENTIANE
AND LUANG PRABANG. ONE PL SOLDIER RALLIED IN MR- IV.

POLITICAL: - PHOUN SIPRASEUTH' APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF
LPF NEGOTIATOR AND PLENIPOTENTIARY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED
BY PHENG PHONGSAVAN, ALTHOUGH INFORMATION OF NEW CABINET
BY APRIL 15 NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY. LOCAL NEWSPAPER
REPORTS UNCONFIRMED RIFT IN LPF RANKS OVER TACTICS.

END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I- CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR-/8: THERE WERE TWO MINOR GROUND INCIDENTS.
IN FAR NORTHWEST, ENEMY SHELLING ON 5 APRIL FORCED
UNIT, THAT HAD BEEN DRIVEN FROM POSITION 45 KM NORTH
OF BAN HOU EI SAI WEST TO MEKONG RIVER ON 3-4 APRIL,
FARTHER WEST, REPORTEDLY INTO BURMA, THUS ELIMINATING
RLG PRESENCE IN THAT AREA (NO CASUALTIES, BUT ADD
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THREE FRIENDLY WIA TO CASUALTIES FROM PREVIOUS ACTION).
APPROX 20 KM NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG, FRIENDLY
PATROL UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO CROSS NAM (RIVER)
OU ON 5 APRIL (THREE FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF FLEW FOUR
T-28 SORTIES ON 5 APRIL ALL DIRECTED BY REGION HQ TO
STRIKE SUSPECTED ENEMY LOCATIONS EAST OF LUANG PRABANG
(NO VISIBLE RESULTS).

B. MR- II: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS ENEMY (#)

ELEMENT TO WITH-

DRAW FROM POSITION NORTH OF THA VIANG ON 5 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW TWO T-28 SORTIES, BOTH IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING CLASH (RESULTS NOT OBSERVED).

C. MRRRO- III: MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN FRIENDS FIRED 125 ARTILLERY ROUNDS AT REPORTED ENEMY LOCATIONS APPROX 30 KM NORTHWEST OF THAKHEK (VE 514484) MORNING 4. APRIL (0300 Z) WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. FARTHER SOUTH, THERE WERE TWO MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS AGAINST POSITION WELL NORTHEAST OF KENGKOK ON 4 APRIL (ONE FRIENDLY KIA, ONE WIA, THREE ENEMY KIA, ESTIMATED FIVE WIA). RLAF FLEW TWO T-28 SORTIES ON 5 APRIL, AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS NORTHEAST OF KENGKOK, AND TWO AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES PREVIOUS NIGHT, IN SUPPORT OF REPORTED TROOPS IN CONTACT NORTHWEST OF THAKHEK AND NORTHEAST OF KENGKOK.

D. MR- IV: ONE MAJOR AND THREE MINOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, ALL IN KHONG SEDONE AREA. MORNING 4 APRIL (0130 Z), ENEMY COMPANY SUPPORTED BY 100 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED FRIENDS APPROX 27 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE AT XC 108357 (NO CASUALTIES). THERE WERE TWO OTHER MINOR CLASHES IN SAME AREA ON 4-5 APRIL (THREE FRIENDLY WIA). ONE MINOR CLASH TOOK PLACE WELL NORTHWEST OF KHONG SEDONE ON 4 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW FIVE T-28 SORTIES ON 5 APRIL AND ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT OF FOREGONG ACTIONS NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE. ONE PL SOLDIER RALLIED AT SOUKHOUMA SOUTH OF PAKSE ON 3 APRIL.

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E. MR - V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. LAO VAC FLEW RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER AREA 10-15 KM EAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION AND SIGHTED " HUGE" NEW AMMO STORAGE, OTHER OPEN STORAGE, FIVE OCCUPIED TRUCK PARKS, ONE FIELD GUN AND HEAVY TRAIL ACTIVITY.

F. COCFV: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED TWO ADDITIONAL CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 346 AS OF MORNING OF 3 APRIL. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 77 MAJOR AND 470 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 2 APRIL. END)

2. SECTION II- POLITICAL SITUATION

A. ACCORDING TO 3 APRIL INTERVIEW IN NEW NEUTRALIST PARTY DAILY NEWSPAPER, SAIKANG, RLG

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN CONFIRMED THAT PHOUN SIPRASEUTH HAS BEEN NAMED TO ACT AS CHIEF LPF NEGOTIATOR AND PLENIPOTENTIARY IN PLACE OF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO IS SAID TO BE SIERIOSLY ILL. IMPLICATION OF THIS REPORT IS THAT PHOUMI WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO VIENTIANE TO NEGOTIATE THE PROTOCOLS IMPLEMENTING THE VIENTIANE ACCORDS. ALTHOUGH SOUVANNA HAS ASKED PHOUN TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS SO NEW CABINET LIST CAN BE PRESENTED TO KING BY APRIL 15, SOUVANNA PRIVATELY BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THIS CAN OCCUR.

B. XAT LAO, INMARCH 6 EDITORIAL, ALLEGES THERE IS SPLIT IN LPF LEADERSHIP BETWEEN " NATIONALISTS AND INTELLECTUALS" LED BY PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND MEMBERS OF LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (LPRP) LED BY KAYSONE PHOMIVANE AND NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN. ARTICLE SAYS FIRST GROUP FAVORS ENDING WAR NOW, IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIENTIANE ACCORDS, WHILE SECOND FAVORS FIGHTING UNTIL FINAL VICTORY IS ACHIEVED. REPORTEDLY KAYSONE'S PARTISANS HOPE TO RECEIVE POSITIONS IN NEW PGNU AND JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. XAT LAO ALSO MENTIONED RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT PHOUMI VONGVICHIT OPPOSED LPRP- SUPPORTED POST CEASEFIRE ATTACK ON PAKSONG AND LOST HIS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR'S POSITION AS RESULT. (COMMENT: LL LPF PARTICIPANTS IN ALLEGED CONFIDENTIAL

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SPLIT ARE, OF COURSE, AMONG TOP SEVEN LEADERS OF LPRP. XAT LAO HAS NO EVIDENCE FOR SUCH A SPLIT BUT RUMORS OF DISSENSION IN LPF HAVE HURT LATTER'S IMAGE IN VIENTIANE SOMEWHAT.).
GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/ T: VIENTIANE 2691. (#) OMISSION IN PARA 1 B LINE 1. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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SECDEF
DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD
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CINCUSARPAC HAWAII
USDAO SAIGON
COMUSMACTHAI
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI
CDR USSAG NKP
DEPCDR AF F ADVON UDORN
DODSPECREP BANGKOK
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